



12 February 2016

Dear Parents,

In April of each year, the HSIE (History) department conducts a History Study tour. In 2017, the Senior History Study Tour will be to Cambodia and Vietnam. The tour is open to all students studying either Ancient or Modern History in Years 11 and 12 in 2017.

The tour has two broad objectives: the first, seeing living history by providing students with a “hands on” personal experience of Vietnam and its interesting history and to enrich content within the Preliminary and HSC History Syllabi. Secondly, it provides a unique cultural experience and the opportunity to experience History through cultural interaction. The Study Tour is aimed at creating an opportunity for our boys to interact more meaningfully with their historical study and to sensitise them to the particular and unique history of Vietnam.

Boys who are interested in attending the tour should complete the Expression of Interest form in order to gain their approval to travel from the Headmaster. The Expression of Interest is not a commitment to the tour; further details will be provided after that expression has been made. Students who are successful in their application to tour will be asked to commit to the tour by paying a non-refundable deposit in Term 2.

Students should note that it is a condition of travel that the tour behaviour contract is signed by parents and travellers, and that no student will be permitted to travel on the tour if their school report does not demonstrate a strong commitment to self-discipline and study. Overseas travel is both an opportunity and a responsibility and boys will be expected to demonstrate that they are able to meet and maintain the highest standards of behaviour whilst on tour.

The cost of the tour is anticipated to be in the range of \$ 4000. This would include all flights, accommodation of a good standard, tours and specialised tour guides, travel insurance and visas. It will also include all breakfasts and a large number of lunches and dinners. At this stage this is only an estimate and dependent on many variables.

The tour group size is limited and will be accompanied by three staff members and an English speaking tour guide whilst in Cambodia and Vietnam. Any enquires regarding the tour can be directed to Mrs Megan Murdoch, HSIE Coordinator, at the College via email ([megan.murdoch@stgregs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:megan.murdoch@stgregs.nsw.edu.au))

Thank you for your interest,

Megan Murdoch

HSIE Coordinator (History/Legal Studies)

## **Vietnam and Cambodia Itinerary Draft Version One 2017**

### **Day 1 [Sat 8 April 2017]: Sydney – Siem Reap**

Transfer through Saigon. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### **Day 2 [Sun 9 April 2017]: Siem Reap – Angkor Wat Complex**

Day visit to the most famous of all the temples on the plain of Angkor: Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom. The temple complex covers 81 hectares and is comparable in size to the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Its distinctive five towers are emblazoned on the Cambodian flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### **Day 3 [Mon 10 April 2017]: Siem Reap – Flight to Hanoi**

Breakfast at the hotel, and we will visit the Killing Fields and the War museum in Siem Reap to gain an understanding of the significant history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Cambodia and the Pol Pot regime. Transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your flight to Hanoi.

### **Day 4 [Tues 11 Apr 2017]: Hoa Lu Day Trip**

Hoa Lu, 100 km south of Hanoi, was the Vietnamese capital city under the Dinh and Le Dynasties between 968 and 1009 AD. Some of the structures and tombs have survived the years and can still be seen today. The area is also one of an outstanding natural beauty with limestone peaks whose splendour is said to surpass that of Halong Bay.

Depart Hanoi for the 2 hour drive south. Spend an hour visiting the Dinh and Le sanctuaries before visiting Tam Coc for a traditional boat ride along the Boi River. Along the way, pass through caves and ancient temples.

### **Day 5 [Wed 12 April 2017]: Hanoi Full Day City Tour**

This city tour takes in Hanoi's essential sites. There is a morning and afternoon schedule, as well as lunch.

You are met at 08:30am in the hotel lobby. Visit the Ho Chi Minh Complex including the Mausoleum, the Presidential Palace and the Ho Chi Minh Museum, The Temple of Literature - Vietnam's first university dating back to 1070 and Hoa Lo Prison, Ngoc Son Temple and Hoan Kiem Lake - its history dating back to the 13th century, A one-hour cyclo tour through the narrow, chaotic streets of the Old Quarter and a traditional show of the famous Vietnamese water puppets

### **Day 6 [Thurs 13 April 2017]: Hanoi - Flight to Hue - afternoon city tour and Perfume River cruise**

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Hanoi airport for your flight to Hue. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. You will then spend the afternoon on a guided tour to the Citadel and Pagoda with cruise back up the river at dusk.

### **Day 7 [Fri 14 April 2017]: (Good Friday) Hue Full day City tour - Royal tombs, Thanh Toan Covered Bridge by cyclo**

After undertaking The Stations of the Cross, depart the hustle and bustle of the city for a ride through the beautiful countryside. The first stop will be Emperor Minh Mang's Mausoleum, possibly the most impressive of all the Nguyen Dynasty Emperors' Tombs, then Khai Dinh Tomb. After discovering the history of this fascinating site, enjoy your three-hour cyclo tour further into the countryside to the charming Thanh Toan Bridge. The ride to the bridge will take you through the picturesque countryside and the villages that punctuate it. After visiting the bridge, visit the small museum next door, before returning to Hue in the afternoon.

### **Day 8 [Saturday 15 April 2017]: Hue - Danang - Hoian**

Today after breakfast you will be transferred to Hoi An (about a three hour drive). The drive is lovely along the My Khe Coast and over the Hai Van Pass (Pass of the Clouds). Lunch at Danang, before travelling into Hoi An.

### **Day 9 [Sun 16 April 2017]: My Son morning trip**

Today explore the ancient temples and towers of My Son here 1+1/2 hours with our English speaking tour guide, taking photos of beautiful surroundings and the site itself, then enjoy the Cham dance performed at a small indoor theatre. Visit the colorful local market, interact with local buyers and sellers on the way back to Hoi An for lunch. Afternoon at leisure in Hoi An Old Town. In the evening, attend Easter Sunday Mass.

**Day 10 [Mon 17 April 2017]: Hoi An - Full day tour**

From the 16th to 18th centuries, Hoi An was a thriving international commercial port for Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Arab merchants. Today much of the town is now heritage-listed.

Enjoy a walking tour through the narrow winding streets of the Ancient Quarter visiting Chua Ong Pagoda, Assembly Hall, 200-year-old Tam Ky house and the Japanese Covered Bridge. After lunch, there is a short boat trip to visit a handicraft ceramic village and boat building yards.

**Day 11 [Tues 18 April 2017]: Hoian – Danang airport - Flight to Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnel**

Pick up from your hotel then take a flight to Saigon. Upon arrival at the tunnels, watch a short introductory video on the construction of the tunnels. The next hour is spent exploring the maze of tunnels, accompanied by the guide.

**Day 12 [Wed 19 April 2017]: Long Tan and Nui Dat**

Our historical tour starts from Ho Chi Minh City with a 3-hour drive to Long Tan, stopping en route to see some famous battle sites such as the Long Tan Cross, the Horseshoe and the Long Phuoc Tunnels. After lunch, visit Nui Dat (SAS Hill), before returning to Saigon.

**Day 13 [Thur 20 April 2017]: Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta**

Traditional transportation in the Mekong Delta is by boat along a vast network of canals and channels. Boating along these canals and visiting the floating markets always proves to be a fascinating and rewarding experience for all visitors. Our tour starts with a drive through the Mekong Delta to Cai Be floating market; from here we board our river boats for a cruise along the endless waterways of the mighty Mekong. We will cruise to visit a Bonsai Garden and the handicraft village to see how bricks and pottery items are made. The visit also allows you to discover how candy and pop rice are made. One of our stops will be to a small restaurant serving the local delicacies.

**Day 14 [Fri 21 April 2017]: Ho Chi Minh City tour – Overnight flight to Sydney**

You will be picked up at 8 am in the main lobby of your hotel.

**In the morning you will visit:**

- The Notre Dame Cathedral and Old Post Office
- The War Remnants Museum
- Thien Hau Pagoda
- Cholon Cyclo Tour
- Binh Tay Market

Around 5:00PM, check-out of hotel to the airport for your flight back home

**Day 15 (Sat 22 April 2017): Arrive back in Sydney after your overnight flight**



## SENIOR HISTORY TOUR CAMBODIA/VIETNAM 2017 STUDENT APPLICATION

Students should note that the size of the tour group is limited and that an offer of a place on tour will be made based upon the application process. Students who may not be successful in the first round may be placed on a wait list to travel.

### Selection Criteria:

- (1) A demonstrated commitment to self-discipline
- (2) A demonstrated ability to represent the College to a high standard at all times
- (3) A demonstrated ability to meet and maintain the highest standards of behaviour

Applications will be reviewed by the Tour Management Committee.

### (4) Applicants will be assessed upon the following criteria:

- Academic progress
- Behavioural progress
- Sporting representation of the College
- Cultural representation of the College
- Leadership skills evidenced

Applicants will be required to submit their application using the attached proforma and should ensure all questions are appropriately answered.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

History Teacher in 2016: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief statement explaining why you are interested in taking part in the tour and what you think you may gain from the experience.

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Name two teachers in addition to your History teacher who would support your application to attend.

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent Permission for Application**

I give permission for my child to travel as part of the 2017 Senior History Tour should he be approved. I understand that the first deposit of \$300 is due Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to hold my son's place on the tour. Payment is to be made directly to the Finance Office.

Please place my son on the waiting list if he is not named in the first round.

**YES/NO**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Student Declaration of Application**

I would like to apply to be a member of the 2017 Senior History Tour. I understand that my application will be judged on merit and that the final decision will be approved by the Headmaster.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please attach the following to your application**

- (1) The Student Declaration for the tour signed by both the applicant and parent
- (2) Any other information that may be applicable to selection (e.g. personal references, school awards etc.)

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE MONDAY MARCH 15th 2017**  
**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED**  
**DIRECTLY TO MRS MURDOCH VIA STUDENT SERVICES**



## Vietnam Study Tour 2017 Student Declaration

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (travelling student name) have read the following regulations for the History Study Tour to Vietnam in 2017. I have read these in the presence of my parent/guardian and am confident that I shall be able to meet these commitments and that I will abide by these regulations at all times.

1. I understand that while traveling overseas I am representing both Australia and my College and I promise that I will behave in a sensible and courteous manner at all times. I will avoid actions that create a nuisance, disrupt the enjoyment of others or endanger the safety of others or myself. I will not absent myself from the group under any circumstances.
2. I will be on time to every meeting point during the tour. Failure to do so will inconvenience the group and may cause travel difficulties such as missed tour connections. Lateness may be "fined" with fines going toward the Contingency Fund for the travel group.
3. I will maintain my belongings neatly to avoid packing delays in moving from hotels and to travel connections. I will not enter the hotel rooms of other travellers in the group.
4. I will at all times cooperate with the tour leaders and accept the directives of those in care and authority over me during the tour.
5. I promise not to smoke, consume alcohol or take drugs which are not medically prescribed to me. I will not be in possession of cigarettes, alcohol, illegal drugs or pharmaceutical drugs that are not prescribed to me at any time during the tour.
6. I will not engage in offensive behaviour, gestures or language, including deliberate swearing. I will not do or say anything to make another person feel uncomfortable, threatened or offended.
7. I will follow the instructions from my teachers on what behaviour and dress is appropriate for travel. I will not do or say anything that could draw attention to myself at airport and national border security checkpoints.

I understand that my continued failure to comply with these regulations or to cooperate with the tour leaders may result in my being asked to return home and that my parents will be expected to cover the cost of any additional charges in fares or fees that this arrangement may necessitate. I also understand that further disciplinary action may also be taken by the Headmaster on my return.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (travelling student)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian)      Date \_\_\_\_\_